SPIDER-MAN® UNMASKED

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Friendly Neighborhood SPIDER-MAN®

DAVID EATON DELL

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Friendly Neighborhood SPIDER-MAN

Spider-Man has made one of the biggest decisions in his life by turning against Tony Stark, a.k.a. Iron Man, and the United States government. And by joining Captain America's rebellion against the Superhuman Registration Act while his secret identity is already revealed to the world, Peter has put himself and his loved ones in a dangerous position–they are now fugitives from justice and prime targets for the government and its shadowy conspirators.

Now the government has cast a crucial move against the webslinger by enlisting his arch-nemesis, Adrian Toomes, a.k.a. the Vulture, to track him down. Armed with the knowledge that Spider-Man is actually Peter Parker and that ex-girlfriend Deb Whitman has written a scathing, tell-all memoir about her relationship with Peter, the Vulture is confident that Spider-Man will appear at her book signing...

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HERE, MARCUS. BEAUTIFUL SUNSET TONIGHT, HUH?

SAY, I...I WAS THINKING...

...MAYBE YOU WANT TO GO TO THE MOVIES, HUH? THAT NEW GARY COOPER FILM IS OPENING THIS EVENING, AND IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE--

KILL ME.

WHAT, MARCUS? I DIDN'T HEAR YOU. WHAT DID YOU--?

I SAID, "KILL ME."

WHA--? ARE YOU...YOU'RE NOT...

THERE'S NOBODY LOOKING, ADRIAN. JUST...JUST PUSH ME IN. I'LL SINK LIKE A ROCK.

BUT...BUT THEY'D KNOW *I* DID IT...THEY'D...FIGURE IT *OUT*, THEY...

NO, THEY WOULDN'T. TELL THEM YOU CAME HOME, FOUND ME GONE. THEY'LL FIGURE IT WAS A ROBBERY OR SOMETHING. A CRIPPLE, EASY PICKINGS...

MARCUS, COME ON, THIS...THIS ISN'T FUNNY...

YOU GOT NO MOTIVE. THEY'D HAVE NO REASON TO PIN IT ON YOU...

EVEN IF THEY DIDN'T, I...I COULDN'T, I...

MARCUS, C'MON! YOU CAN'T...I MEAN... GEEZ! SINCE OUR FOLKS PASSED AWAY, YOU BEEN MY WHOLE WORLD! YOU BEEN RAISING ME, LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER!

YOU'RE MY BIG BROTHER, BUT YOU'VE BEEN LIKE A DAD TO ME! AND...

AND I'M GOING TO GET A SCHOLARSHIP! I JUST KNOW IT! ALL MY TEACHERS SAY SO. THEY SAY I'M THE SMARTEST--

HOW CAN THEY THINK YOU'RE ***SMART*** WHEN YOU'RE TOO ***STUPID*** TO SEE WHAT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU!

FOR ***CRYING OUT LOUD***, ADRIAN, OPEN YOUR ***EYES***!

I CAN'T MOVE! NOT MY ARMS, MY LEGS! NOTHIN'! AND I'M NEVER GONNA!

THAT MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT FINISHED ME!

I CAN'T ***DRESS*** MYSELF! CAN'T GO TO THE FREAKIN' ***BATHROOM*** MYSELF! CAN'T HAVE A WOMAN!

I'M ***WEAK***! I'M A ***WEAKLING***! IF WE WERE A PACK OF ANTELOPES, THE LIONS WOULD'VE EATEN ME BY NOW AND THE VULTURES WOULD BE FEASTING ON MY BONES, BECAUSE THAT'S NATURE'S WAY!

THIS RIGHT HERE...IT'S WRONG! IT'S UNNATURAL!

BUT... BUT WE'RE NOT ANIMALS! WE'RE HUMANS--!

ALL HUMANS ARE ANIMALS ON THE INSIDE.

I'M A SICK, CRIPPLED CREATURE THAT, IN THE WILD, THE PACK WOULD EITHER LEAVE BEHIND OR, BETTER STILL, DEVOUR.

AND YOU...

IN YOUR OWN WAY, YOU'RE AS WEAK AS I AM. *WEAKER.*

BECAUSE AT LEAST *I'M* WILLING TO *ADMIT* IT.

I'M...I'M SORRY...

TO HELL WITH YOUR SORRY. JUST...

JUST TAKE ME HOME.

Y...YES, MARCUS.

I'M SORRY. I JUST...I WANT TO MAKE YOU HAPPY.

STOP YOUR SNIVELING. YOU'RE MAKING IT WORSE.

FINE. THEN INSTEAD OF BEING WEAK...

"...SHOW SOME BACKBONE. BE AN ANIMAL."

TAKING WING

PETER DAVID
WRITER

SCOT EATON
PENCILER

JOHN DELL
INKER

MATT MILLA
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VC'S CORY PETIT
LETTERER

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TODAY:
DEB WHITMAN
AUTHOR OF
TWO-FACED

Barnes & Barnes Booksellers

BIGBOY

CAN YOU HEAR US, TOOMES?

PERFECTLY. THE LITTLE BUG YOU'VE PLACED IN MY EAR IS WORKING FINE.

GOOD. WE CAN HEAR WHAT YOU SAY AS WELL.

CAN YOU HEAR WHAT I'M THINKING?

NO, OF COURSE NOT.

THAT'S PROBABLY **FORTUNATE**, YOU INSUFFERABLE WEAKLING.

SAVE THE INSULTS, TOOMES. ANY SIGN OF SPIDER-MAN?

NO. AND IT'S VULTURE.

FINE, WHATEVER. STAY ON STATION UNTIL--

BE ***QUIET***, OR RISK PROVING YOUR STUPIDITY EVEN FURTHER.

IF I REMAIN HERE, THAT INFERNAL SIXTH SENSE OF HIS WILL ***WARN*** HIM OF MY PRESENCE. EITHER HE WON'T SHOW UP AT ALL...

...OR FIND SOME WAY TO ATTACK ME BY SURPRISE.

WE MUST SHOW ***PATIENCE***. I WILL HAVE HIM...

...BUT ON ***MY*** TERMS, AND BY TURNING HIS WEAKNESSES AGAINST HIM.

COMPASSION WILL BE HIS UNDOING...

...AS, IN LIFE, IT SO OFTEN ***IS***.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE DOING THIS.

I JUST HAVE TO SEE HER, OKAY, MJ?

NO, IT'S NOT OKAY! SO AN OLD GIRLFRIEND WROTE A NASTY BOOK ABOUT YOU! DON'T YOU HAVE BIGGER THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT?

OF COURSE I DO, BUT AT THE MOMENT, I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THEM!

AT LEAST *THIS*, I CAN.

AND JUST WHAT, EXACTLY, ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

I...

YEEEESSSSSS...?

I'LL THINK OF SOME-THING.

OH, THAT'S REASSURING.

GIMME A LITTLE CREDIT, WILL YOU? EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTROL.

WHY DOES IT FEEL LIKE EVERYTHING IS ANYTHING BUT?

BEATS ME.

amc
PALA
WOW. THERE'S... REALLY A LOT OF PEOPLE HERE.
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IT'S A GOOD THING YOU BROUGHT ME IN THROUGH THE BACK.
WELL, WE LEARNED OUR LESSON IN CROWD CONTROL AFTER THE GAIMAN SIGNING.
WHICH GAY MEN CAME HERE TO SIGN?
UHHHH... I...DON'T *RECALL.*
OH. AND A REPORTER FOR THE *BUGLE* WISHED TO SPEAK WITH YOU. SINCE THEY OWN THE PUBLISHING HOUSE THAT PUT OUT YOUR BOOK, I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE A PROBLEM.
CHUNKY CERAMICS
FEDEX
CARLOS CASTANEDA:
DEB
HELLO, DEBRA.
BETTY! BETTY...
BRANT.
RIGHT! RIGHT! YOU'RE A REPORTER WITH THE *BUGLE* NOW?
YUP. MOVING UP IN THE WORLD.
WOULD YOU MIND GIVING US FIVE MINUTES ALONE?
GOD FORBID.
OKAY, BUT NO MORE THAN THAT. WE DON'T WANT TO KEEP HER FANS WAITING.

YOU MIND IF I RECORD THIS?

NOT AT ALL.

SO...

WHO THE *HELL* DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

TURN IT OFF.

TURN IT OFF AND PUT IT AWAY.

MR. JAMESON *DIDN'T* SEND YOU, DID HE? I THOUGHT THIS WAS...

A PUFF PIECE? NO.

AND NO, HE DIDN'T SEND ME. I'M HERE ON MY OWN.

I WANTED TO LOOK YOU IN THE EYE AND SEE THE KIND OF WOMAN WHO WOULD BETRAY A MAN LIKE PETER PARKER.

"A MAN LIKE--!"

YOU USED TO DATE HIM! HE DECEIVED *YOU* AS MUCH AS HE DID ME!

AREN'T YOU *OUTRAGED* AT FINDING OUT WHAT HE DID?

OUTRAGED? ARE YOU KIDDING? I'M *RELIEVED!*

MY LIFE FINALLY MAKES *SENSE!*

WHAT? WHAT'RE YOU--?

DEB

FOR THE LONGEST TIME, IT SEEMED LIKE SPIDER-MAN WAS THIS...THIS *CREATURE* WHO CURSED MY LIFE.

NED'S DEATH, AND THE HOBGOBLIN... EVEN MY POOR BROTHER... IT ALL TIED BACK TO *"THAT LOUSY WALL-CRAWLER,"* AS JONAH CALLS HIM.

AND NOW I FIND OUT IT WAS PETER ALL ALONG...

SO PETER *WAS* TO BLAME...

YOU REALLY DON'T GET IT, DO YOU. YOU ACT LIKE PETER PARKER IS THE DISGUISE THAT SPIDER-MAN HIDES BEHIND.

HE'S NOT. HE'S PETER PARKER WEARING A COSTUME. AND PETER IS A GOOD, DECENT, CARING MAN, AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN.

WAS I STUNNED AT FIRST, WHEN I FOUND OUT? SURE. AND ALL THOSE OLD FEELINGS BANGED AROUND IN ME.

BUT THEN I REALIZED THE THING THAT *MOST* FRIGHTENED ME ABOUT SPIDER-MAN WAS THAT HE WAS THIS ANONYMOUS, THREATENING BEING WITH UNKNOWABLE MOTIVES.

WHAT PETER DID...HE DID OUT OF LOVE, COMPASSION, AND DECENCY.

WHAT'S *YOUR* EXCUSE?

C'MON. YOU'RE GONNA RUN OUT OF EXCUSES SOONER OR LATER.

I'M NOT MAKING EXCUSES, FLASH. I REALLY *DO* HAVE WORK.

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T NOTICE, EVERYBODY ELSE HAS GONE HOME. COME ON, ARROW. GRAB DINNER WITH ME.

MAYBE TOMORROW.

THAT'S WHAT YOU KEEP SAY--

HEY! DID YOU SEE THIS? THE CHICK WHO WROTE THAT BOOK SLAMMING PETE IS DOING A STORE APPEARANCE!

YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF STARTING TROUBLE, ARE YOU, FLASH?

OH, YOU BET I AM!

LATER.

LATER.

NURSE

DEB TMAN

ACED

ONE BOOK TO A CUSTOMER, PLEASE! MS. WHITMAN ONLY HAS TWO HOURS!

YOUR BOOK HAS MADE A HUGE DIFFERENCE IN MY LIFE!

WELL, I'M PLEASED TO HEAR THAT.

I'M STARTING TO THINK MY BOYFRIEND MIGHT ACTUALLY BE A SUPER-VILLAIN. IT WOULD EXPLAIN SO MUCH.

WHAT DO *YOU* THINK?

WELL...THESE DAYS THERE ARE PEOPLE YOU CAN CALL. THEY CAN CHECK HIM OUT, I SUPPOSE. I THINK S.H.I.E.L.D. HAS A HOTLINE NOW.

HOLY COW. IT'S LIKE NAZI GERMANY. CALL THE AUTHORITIES AND RAT OUT YOUR LOVED ONES.

WHY IS IT THAT BLEEDING-HEART LIBERALS LIKE YOU ALWAYS TROT OUT NAZIS WHENEVER YOU WANT TO DEMONIZE A GOVERNMENT THAT'S JUST TRYING TO PROTECT US?

YOU, FELLA, ARE ON NOTICE.

I'M ON WHAT?

WAAAIIT A MINUTE. AREN'T YOU--?

NOPE.

BECAUSE YOU SURE *LOOK* LIKE...

NOT HIM. MOVIN' ON.

HUH?

ONE SIDE!

COACH

OH, MAN... THIS SHOULD BE INTERESTING.

YOU'RE ON NOTICE TOO! AND THAT'S THE WORD!

YOU GOT A HELL OF A NERVE, LADY!

OH, NOT AGAIN!

AND YOU'RE WHAT? THE HEAD OF HIS FAN CLUB?

AS A MATTER OF FACT--

DEB

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FLASH?!

HUH? OH...! HI, UH... BETTY...

OH MY GOD! FLASH THOMPSON!

OH, RIGHT. FLASH THOMPSON. THAT GUY.

THIS IS TURNING INTO OLD HOME WEEK.

GAME PRO

ASHLE WOLF

TYLER!

DEB

THE LAST I KNEW, YOU WERE IN A COMA, AND NOW HERE YOU ARE, ALL...UN-COMA-ED. WHICH ISN'T A WORD, BUT...

THIS IS *MIRACULOUS!* WHEN DID IT HAPPEN?!

UH...A LITTLE WHILE AGO...

AND YOU'RE JUST...YOU'RE *WHOLE?*

WELL, I'VE GOT SOME... SOME MEMORY ISSUES.

MEMORY ISSUES...?

ARE YOU...

ARE YOU SAYING YOU DON'T REMEMBER WE *DATED?* THAT WE--?

NO! NO, THAT'S... THAT PART'S ALL CLEAR AS A BELL!

I MEAN, DON'T ASK ME, Y'KNOW, WHAT YOU WERE WEARING WHEN WE WENT TO SOME PLACE OR OTHER, 'CAUSE I'M LOUSY AT THAT. BUT, Y'KNOW, MOST GUYS ARE...

BOY, IF NOTHING ELSE, TODAY HAS BEEN WORTH IT JUST TO--

OH NO...

SPIDER-MAN!

COME OUT, COME OUT, *WHEREVER* YOU ARE!

WHITMAN

TWO-FACED

DON'T BE *SHY!* I KNOW YOU'RE HERE *SOME-WHERE!*

TAKE A HIKE, OLD MAN!!

NOW THEN! SINCE YOU ARE THE OBJECT OF PARKER'S ATTENTIONS...

SO TYPICAL OF TODAY'S YOUTH! NO RESPECT FOR THEIR BETTERS!

...IT MAKES SENSE TO...

PLEASE! PLEASE, NO!

STOP YOUR SNIVELING! YOU'RE MAKING IT WORSE!

IT MAKES ME SICK JUST TO BE SURROUNDED BY SUCH A PACK OF WEAKL--

BLAM

KEEP YOUR DAMNED HANDS OFF HER.

RAAARRRRRR!!

IDIOT! DID YOU TRULY BELIEVE MY COSTUME WOULDN'T BE ARMORED AGAINST SMALL ARMS? DID YOU THINK THE VULTURE WAS TO BE TAKEN DOWN BY THE LIKES OF YOU?

HOW ABOUT THE LIKES OF ME? HOW'S THAT GRAB YA?

OH, AND HEY: THEY HAVE A STRICT NO-CUTTING-IN-LINE POLICY HERE. SO YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT YOUR TURN.

HEY, DEB! I SWUNG BY TO HAVE A CHAT... Y'KNOW, FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE...

AS A MATTER OF FACT, PARKER, THIS IS THE ONLY TIME YOU HAVE LEFT!

I DO BELIEVE I'M BEING CALLED OUT.

...BUT WORK CAN JUST *POP UP* WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT. GUESS YOU KNOW THAT ALL TOO WELL, HUH.

SO MAYBE THIS ISN'T THE BEST TIME...

WOW. OKAY, *THAT'S* NEW. ANY *OTHER* TRICKS YOU WANT TO SHOW ME?

I CERTAINLY DO! IF, THAT IS, YOU'RE BRAVE ENOUGH TO FACE THEM!

SORRY I CAN'T STAY, DEB. GOTTA FLY.

NOW... WHERE DID HE GET T--

LOOKING IN THE *WRONG* PLACE, PARKER.

YOU'RE BECOMING TOO *PREDICTABLE.*

WHOA!

WHEREAS, I--

NEVER KNOW WHEN TO SHUT UP.

AND IF I'M RIGHT...THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO *BUST UP* THE GENERATOR ON YOUR BACK THAT POWERS YOUR WINGS.

YES... YOU...ARE RIGHT...

UNFORTUNATELY... FOR *YOU*, THAT IS...

...MY *LATEST* GENERATOR HAS BACKUP SYSTEMS THAT FAR *OUTSTRIP* THE PREVIOUS MODELS.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE *BEST* ASPECT OF THIS ENTIRE LITTLE DANCE IS, PARKER?

THAT "*PARKER*" IS ONE LESS SYLLABLE THAN "SPIDER-MAN," SO IT'S LESS WORK FOR YOUR TONGUE?

IT'S THAT YOU STILL DON'T *APPRECIATE* THE NEW STATUS QUO.

I'M THE "*GOOD GUY*," YOU FOOL! THE GOVERNMENT DISPATCHED *ME*...

...TO DISPATCH *YOU!*

YOU'RE THE OUTLAW, AND *I'M* THE *HERO!*

A HERO DOESN'T THREATEN HELPLESS PEOPLE IN A BOOKSTORE!

IF PEOPLE ARE *HELPLESS*, THEY DON'T *DESERVE* HEROES!

THE HELPLESS ONLY DESERVE WHAT THE STRONG DISH OUT!

CONSIDERING THE NUMBER OF TIMES I'VE HAD *YOU* HELPLESS, VULCHY--

--THAT PRETTY MUCH MEANS YOU DESERVE EVERYTHING *I* HAVE TO DISH OUT, AND *MORE* BESI--

ARRRHHHH!!!

OHHHH, YOU'RE GONNA BE *EATING* THOSE PIG-STICKERS IN A MINUTE, VUL...

WHA...?

STARTING TO *FEEL* IT, PARKER?

A POWERFUL HALLUCINOGEN, COURSING THROUGH YOUR BODY.

YOU HAVE A VERY FORMIDABLE METABOLISM, I'LL GRANT YOU. PERHAPS YOU CAN SHAKE IT OFF BEFORE YOU HIT THE GROUND...

BUT I VERY SERIOUSLY DOUBT IT.

YOU THINK YOU'RE SO *SMART*, SPIDER-MAN...WHEN, IN FACT, YOU'RE TOO STUPID TO SEE WHAT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF--

...OF...

N...NO...

WHAT HAVE YOU...DONE... THIS...

TOOMES?

TOOMES? TOOMES, SPEAK TO ME. WHAT'S GOING ON?

YOU...DID THIS...

WE DIDN'T DO *ANYTHING*, VULTURE. REPORT: WHAT'S HAPPENING?

VULTURE! I SAID, REPORT!

VULTURE!!!!

TO BE CONTINUED...

Friendly Neighborhood SPIDER-MAIL

We'll skip my usual blathering and get straight to the letters this month. You're welcome!

Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Team,

Oi... my Mysterio-keeper-tracker-ofer is on the fritz! I coulda' sworn that purple-cape Mysterio identified red-cape Mysterio as Klum, but for the rest of the issue it seemed that purple-cape Mysterio was Klum. For the sake of not going insane, I choose to believe that purple-cape Mysterio was Klum and red-cape Mysterio was not a real Mysterio at all - just a decoy thrown into the mix to confuse everyone (I bet Daniel Berkhart appreciates that interpretation, too!).

It's funny the way bony protrusions can change everything. I thought Ms. Arrow was a lovely lass—I knew she had a hidden agenda, and she was no Bea Arthur, but she still seemed nice. Two spiky wrists later and she's dead to me. Since she seems to have some kind of spider-ness about her, I can't help but wonder if she is connected to the villainess from the *Avengers: Disassembled* issues of *Spectacular Spider-Man*. I've been hoping to learn more about her!

Once again, *Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man* has failed to be anything but impressive. Keep up the sensational work!

- Adrian J. Watts
Melbourne, Australia

Methinks Mr. Adrian wasn't paying close enough attention as he devoured his latest issue of Friendly***. Here's to set things straight in case anyone else had difficulty telling their fishbowl heads apart: the classic Mysterio costume (light green and light purple) was Klum; the dark green and dark purple costume was Berkhart, and the red and purple demonic-looking costume was the very-dead Quentin Beck. We were extra careful to make sure that all the Mysterios had a separate design and color scheme to keep things from getting too confusing. And by the way, our special cameo guest star this issue would completely agree with Adrian's new assessment of Ms. Arrow.***

Help me Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man Team! You're my only hope!

I have introduced my four-year-old nephew, Leo, to the world of comic book characters (don't worry, mainly Marvel ones) and he loves the Hulk, the Fantastic Four and Spider-Man. So far, so good.

The problem is his absolute favorite character in the Marvel Universe is Carnage!!! That's right: *my four-year-old nephew's favorite character is a sick and twisted serial killer!*

What have I done? I'm worried for his future... I wish I had never worn that Carnage T-shirt in his presence that first time. It must have been the huge claws. Little boys love that sort of thing, don't they? Leo even asks to speak to Carnage on the phone when I call him (he seems to think that Carnage is my roommate!), so that I have to pretend to be Carnage by adopting a high-pitched, sinister voice. And he even asks about him when I go to visit him and his mother (my sister).

What am I going to do?

I thought it was bad when he wanted to go to New York so that he could meet Spidey, and I couldn't bring myself to tell him that he isn't real!

But my nephew now loves a serial killer, and it's all my fault!

Help me please!

I need your advice!

Over and out, Captain Conundrum
(a.k.a. Ben Brighouse... whoops! there goes my secret identity!)

Lancaster, England

Oh, that's easy, Ben! Show him a picture of Ghost Rider. He's even cooler looking than Carnage, but he's a good guy...well, sorta!

Dear Spider-Man:

When I was a kid in Monterey, reading Marvel comics in my tree house, I used to marvel (no pun intended) at Mysterio. Now I get three Mysterios! What more could I ask for?

It was cool seeing Mysterio delve into philosophy as he discussed why God despises suicides, that God wants to have all the fun of taking lives. Whew! Mysterio: slow down a bit. And Mysterio had my blood temperature rising when there was mist everywhere, and I loved those flocks of poisoned bats!

Meanwhile, I still don't like the fact that Spider-Man's identity is known. Stan Lee on the SciFi Channel's "Who Wants to Be A Superhero?" states, "superheroes never divulge their secret identity!" Oh, well. He even said that Spider-Man would never do such a thing. Oh, well again.

Anyway, Mysterio talks the talk, but never seems to walk the walk; he says he can teleport his fist into Spider-Man's noggin', but that would be too easy. Not that I want to see him do such a vicious act to my beloved Spidey, but why even mention it? And then with Mysterio's trap at the end, it was similar to what Jigsaw does in the movie "Saw": he gave Spider-Man a choice, to save his friend or defuse the bomb. Well, Spider-Man did both!

Hey, and I really loved the way Ms. Arrow confronted Mysterio...at least she knows how to get rid of the pest!

Sincerely yours,
Paul Dale Roberts
Jazma Online!
Elk Grove, CA

Paul, I don't know where to start with your letter. It's got more pop culture references than a Peter David issue! That said, we're ecstatic that you enjoyed the multiple Mysterios. And if that raised your blood temperature, I've got a feeling the Vulture and his sinister ways will make it run ice-cold.

Dear Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Writers,

I have to say, out of all the writers in comics right now, Peter David is one of my favorites. I love the humor he includes in all his stories and how he writes plots that build from the beginning. I recently finished the Mysterio arc with issue 13, and I'm glad I decided to follow *Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man* out of "The Other."

It's nice to finally see some fallout from that story, since it feels like Civil War hijacked Spider-Man right when he was at a turning point. Issue #13 brought those events back to the front. Why do I say this? Because of Ms. Arrow, the new school nurse. The final three pages of issue #13 reminded me of something I wondered about at the end of "The Other": the "balance" to Peter's revival. The spider-woman created from the remains of Peter's original body: that's Arrow. It's the only explanation to her mimicking Spider-Man's powers and her sudden appearance at the school and the "masters" and "mission" that Quentin Beck talked about. I can't wait to see how this plays out.

-Peter Kempson
Wilton, CT

Interesting theory, Peter! While I can neither confirm nor deny it, I will say that Ms. Arrow's snack this issue provides a pretty good clue.

Dear Friendly Neighborhood Crew,

I second the idea of printing the Spider-Man and Spider-Man 2099 team-up in a giant-sized special.

Maybe you could be extra nice and do the best of Spidey's team-up stories and include other gems like *Marvel Team-Up #88* (featuring Franklin Richards and Aunt May) or that Spider-Man and Wolverine story that ran in *Marvel Comics Presents*.

Also--has Peter Parker ever met Peter Porker? If they haven't--why not? The Distinguished Competition may have lost their sense of humor, but that doesn't mean you have to follow suit.

Till next time,
Jesse N. Willey

P.S. Come on--the return of J. Jonah Jackalope. You know you want to.

Well, Jesse, we knew there were a few of you Spider-Ham fans out there, so the good news is that the Pork Protector will be returning in his very own special one-shot, entitled Ultimate Civil War: Spider-Ham Crisis (featuring Wolverham)***. It features art from a plethora of fantastic talents, not the least of which is*** Friendly ***alum Mike Wieringo, who can draw a pig in a Spider-Man costume like I can assistant-edit (i.e. exceptionally well). It drops like a slab of ham in February!***

Spider-guys,

I just finished reading *Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man* and would like to say, "great work," especially with the revelation of the third Mysterio… or was it not what it seemed? I can't wait to find out, and while I was shocked to learn Spider-Man had revealed that he was Peter Parker to the public, it has been making for great stories and I'm sure there's more to come.

Now I just need to say I'm glad that good old Spidey's conscience finally got him to realize that he was on what I believe to be the wrong side of registration in *Amazing*, which unfortunately doesn't have a letters page (why not?), and I think I'm seeing a parallel between the prison in the Negative Zone for unregistered superbeings and certain prisons the United States is holding "enemy combatants" in, which doesn't surprise me in the least. Marvel has a way with issues like racism, same-sex relationships, etc.

Oh, and two more things: please bring back the old red-and-blue Spidey costume and MAKE MINE MARVEL.

Brandon Henry

Red-and-blue Spidey? Check. Make yours Marvel? Um, okay. Done. Wow, that was easy. Can I go home now?

--Michael

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